

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
Post Office Box 3044  
Sacramento, California 95812

**From:** Department of Water Resource  
State Water Project Analysis Office  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Project Title:** Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,000 acre-feet of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency’s Approved 2021 State Water Project Table A Water to Kern County Water Agency (SWPAO #21014)

**Location – Specific:** From the Delta to Kern County Water Agency’s (KCWA) turnout(s) in Reaches 9A through 16A of the California Aqueduct.

**Location – County:** Kern County

**Description of Activity:** The proposed project is for the transfer of up to 1,000 acre-feet of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency’s (AVEK) approved 2021 State Water Project (SWP) Table A water to KCWA. The request was made on behalf of landowner Tejon Ranch Company, which owns land in both AVEK’s and KCWA’s service areas. Tejon Ranch Company will use the transferred water to better manage its water supplies. The delivery of AVEK’s approved 2021 Table A water to KCWA under this Agreement will be completed by December 31, 2021 for use within the SWP Place of Use.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity:** AVEK (lead agency), KCWA, and the Department of Water Resources of the State of California (responsible agency)

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility
- Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729

**Reason why activity is exempt:**

- a. State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for delivery within SWP place of use.
- b. No construction is required to implement the proposed points of delivery.
- c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed change in points of delivery.
- d. The water will be delivered to lands that have been in agricultural production for many years. There will be no change in land use

**Responsible Agency Contact Person:** Patrick Luzuriaga **Telephone:** 916-653-9593

Signature: John Leahigh  
John Leahigh  
Water Operations Executive Manager  
Operations & Maintenance

Date: 8/18/2021

Date received for filing by OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Water Operations Manager  
 Department of Water Resources  
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